A-FORCE® 10

A-FORCE

ULYSSES, A NEW INHUMAN WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE VISIONS OF THE FUTURE, SENT A-FORCE ON A MISSION THAT LEFT SHE-HULK IN A COMA, BUT CAPTAIN MARVEL WAS STILL DETERMINED TO USE ULYSSES' PREDICTIVE ABILITIES TO STOP THREATS BEFORE THEY HAPPENED–INCLUDING A THREAT FROM NICO HERSELF. WHEN CAPTAIN MARVEL AND MEDUSA TRIED TO CONTAIN NICO BEFORE SHE COULD KILL A YOUNG WOMAN NAMED ALICE, NICO FLED...RIGHT INTO ALICE'S HOMETOWN OF OURAY, COLORADO, WHICH WAS OVERRUN BY HUMANS TRANSFORMED INTO VIOLENT BUG CREATURES.

A-FORCE REUNITED AND TEAMED UP WITH A MONSTER HUNTER NAMED ELSA BLOODSTONE TO REVERSE THE TOWN'S TRANSFORMATION, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE ONLY WAY TO DO THAT IS FOR NICO TO KILL THE SOURCE: ALICE HERSELF.

WRITER
KELLY THOMPSON

ARTISTS
PAULO SIQUEIRA & JOE BENNETT

COLOR ARTIST
RACHELLE ROSENBERG

LETTERER
VC'S CORY PETIT

PRODUCTION DESIGN
MANNY MEDEROS

COVER
PAULO SIQUEIRA & RACHELLE ROSENBERG

VARIANT COVER
COSPLAY BY CORRINE VITEK, PHOTO BY JUDITH STEPHENS

ASSISTANT EDITOR
ALANNA SMITH

EDITOR
KATIE KUBERT

EDITOR IN CHIEF
AXEL ALONSO

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
JOE QUESADA

PUBLISHER
DAN BUCKLEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
ALAN FINE

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OURAY, COLORADO.
WHAT HAPPENED?! THE INSECTS ARE EVERYWHERE!
WHAT THE HELL?!
IS THAT ONE JANINE?!
FORMERLY THE HOME OF JANINE, ALBERT AND ALICE MICHAELS. CURRENTLY HOUSING BUG VERSIONS OF JANINE, ALBERT AND HALF THE TOWN, COURTESY OF ALICE MICHAELS'S UNCONTROLLABLE POWERS INFECTING THE POPULATION.
DAZZLER.
MUTANT POP STAR, POSSESSOR OF LIGHT-BASED POWERS. CURRENTLY GOING THROUGH AN ANGRY PHASE...WITH GOOD REASON.
CLOSE YOUR EYES!

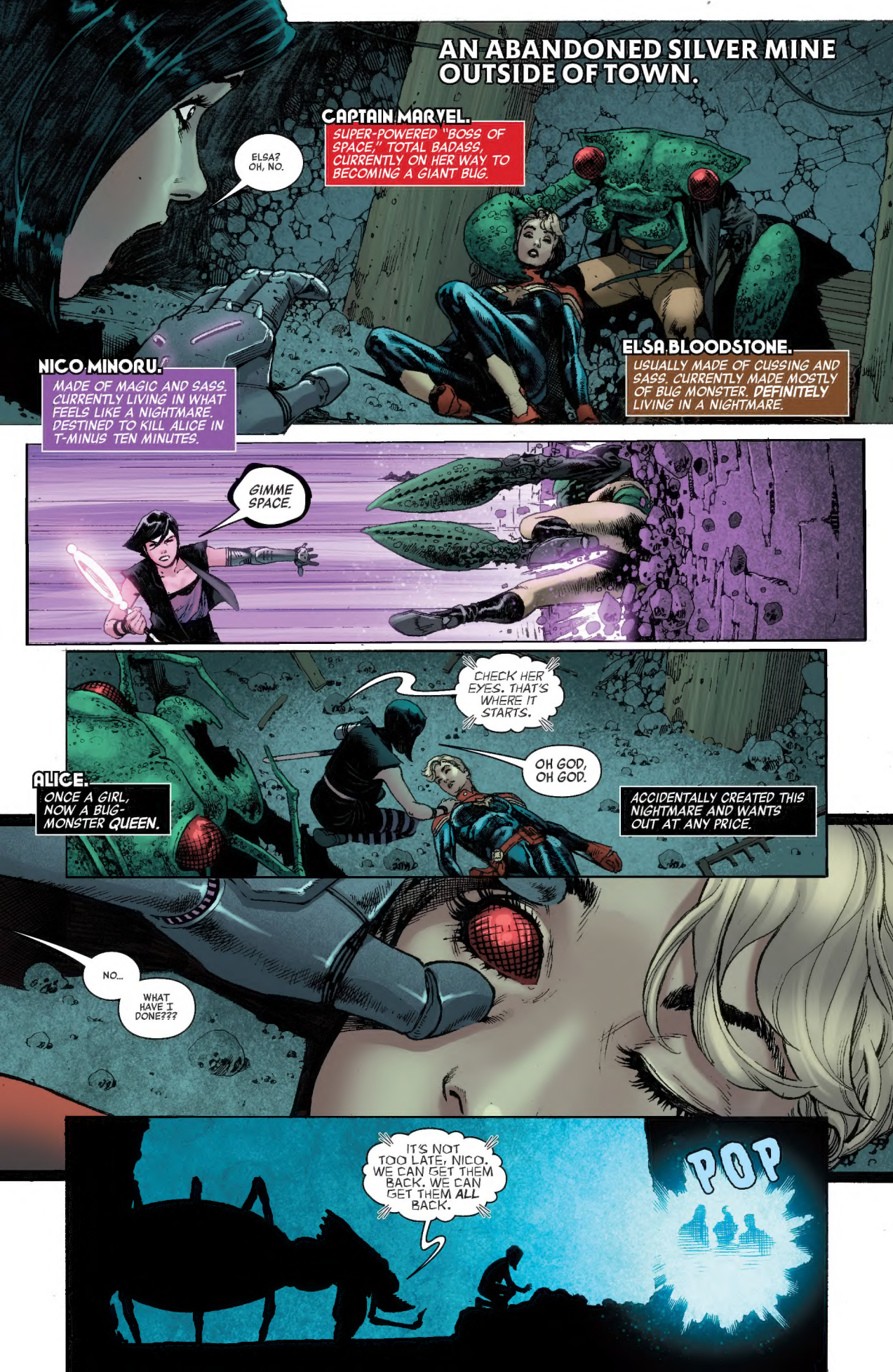
I CAN'T TELL WHO THEY ARE! DOES IT MATTER!?
THEY ARE STILL PEOPLE UNDERNEATH, ALISON. BE CAREFUL.
MEDUSA.
QUEEN OF THE INHUMANS. SUPER-STRONG PREHENSILE HAIR. DOESN'T SPEAK IN CONTRACTIONS (SHE FANCY).

WE NEED TO GET THE PEOPLE IN THE BASEMENT OUT OF HERE. SINGULARITY, CAN YOU GET TO THEM?

SINGULARITY.
TEENY-TINY SENTIENT POCKET DIMENSION. REALLY DOESN'T WANT TO BE TURNED INTO A "BUG MONSTER."
UM... NO?

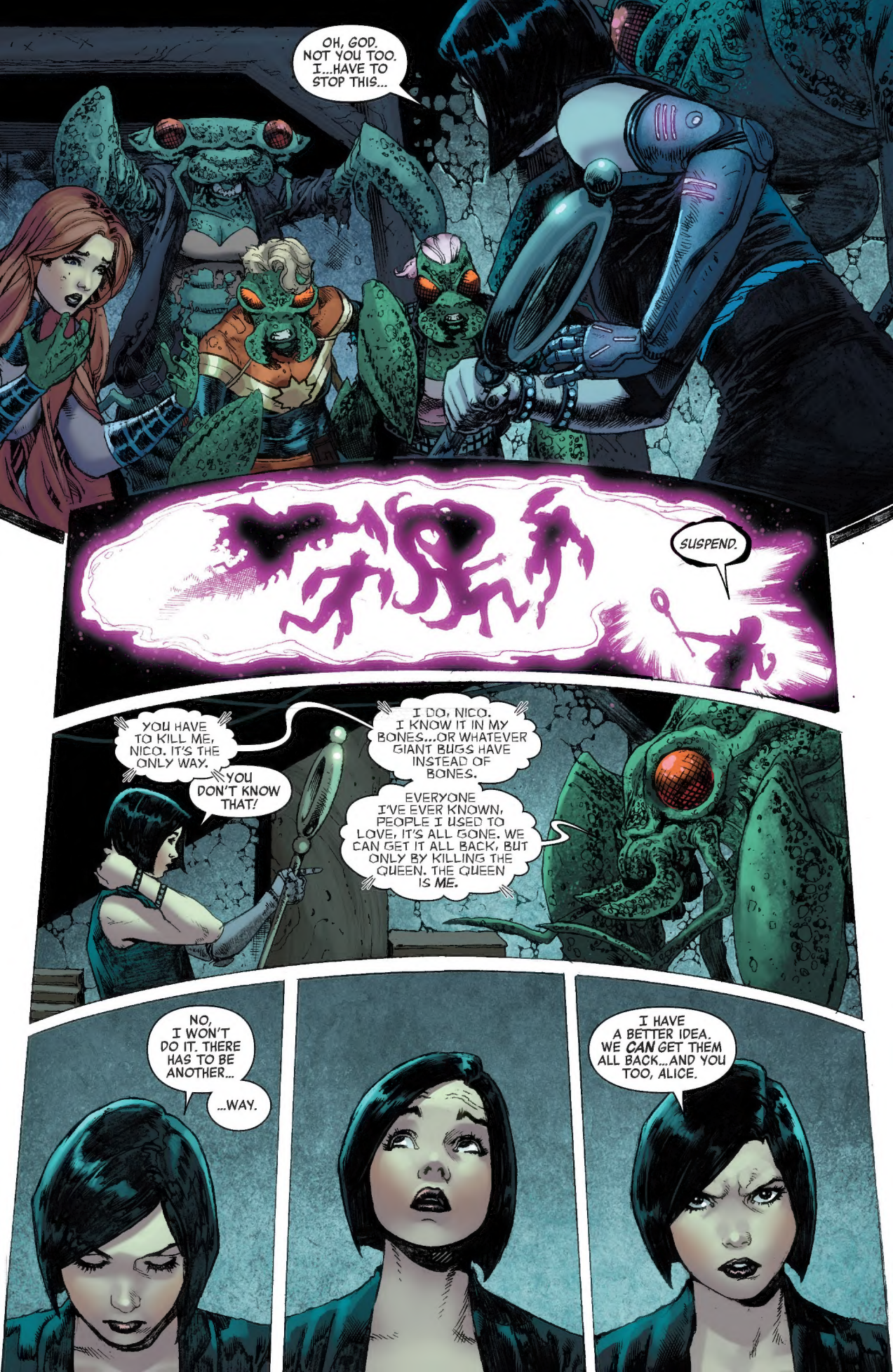
CHIK
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
CHIT

KRAK
MUST GO! MUST GO NOW!
CREEEEAK
THERE ARE NO PEOPLE LEFT, BLUE?
NO! ALL BUGGS!!!
MUST GO NOW!
SINGULARITY, CAN YOU FIND NICO AND CAROL? TAKE US TO THEM?
YES, THEY ARE CLOSE ENOUGH!
ARRGGH!
THEN WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! GET US OUT OF HERE!
YOU GIVE ME THE PERMISSION FOR TELEPORT OF YOUR BODIES? YOU SAID--
JUST DO IT!
YOU HAVE PERMISSION!
OH-KAY!
SHE PICKS NOW TO BE A STICKLER ABOUT PERMISSION?
POP


AN ABANDONED SILVER MINE OUTSIDE OF TOWN.
CAPTAIN MARVEL.
SUPER-POWERED "BOSS OF SPACE," TOTAL BADASS, CURRENTLY ON HER WAY TO BECOMING A GIANT BUG.
ELSA?
OH, NO.
NICO MINORU.
MADE OF MAGIC AND SASS. CURRENTLY LIVING IN WHAT FEELS LIKE A NIGHTMARE. DESTINED TO KILL ALICE IN T-MINUS TEN MINUTES.
ELSA BLOODSTONE.
USUALLY MADE OF CUSSING AND SASS. CURRENTLY MADE MOSTLY OF BUG MONSTER. DEFINITELY LIVING IN A NIGHTMARE.
GIMME SPACE.
CHECK HER EYES. THAT'S WHERE IT STARTS.
OH GOD, OH GOD.
ALICE.
ONCE A GIRL, NOW A BUG-MONSTER QUEEN.
ACCIDENTALLY CREATED THIS NIGHTMARE AND WANTS OUT AT ANY PRICE.
NO...
WHAT HAVE I DONE???
IT'S NOT TOO LATE, NICO. WE CAN GET THEM BACK. WE CAN GET THEM ALL BACK.
POP

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?
REINFORCEMENTS... I HOPE.
NICO... WHAT IS GOING ON--?
UNG!
CAROL!
NICO, BEHIND YOU!
SIAM
MEDUSA. PUT HER DOWN. IT'S ALICE. SHE'S HELPING!
THEN WHY IS CAROL UNCONSCIOUS?!
IT WAS ELSA. SHE GOT INFECTED, ATTACKED CAROL.
YOU CAN COMMUNICATE WITH IT?
ANSWER THE QUESTION, MEDUSA. ARE HER PARENTS OKAY?
NO. NOBODY THERE IS REMOTELY "OKAY."
GRAAAG ZZGRRR REEEE
WHAT IS THAT GOD-AWFUL SOUND IT IS MAKING?
SHE'S... ASKING ABOUT HER PARENTS. ARE THEY ALL RIGHT?
WHAT HAPPENED BACK AT THE HOUSE?
IT WENT TO HELL. EVERYONE IN THE HOUSE IS TRANSFORMED. SOMEONE IN THE BASEMENT MUST HAVE BEEN INFECTED.

THIS IS ALL GOING SO WRONG.
GREEGH REEE GRAGH
UGH. NOT AGAIN.
MEDUSA, THE ELSA BUG IS ONE YOU CAN IMPRISON WITH YOUR "HAIR CUFFS"... YOU MIND?
NOT AT ALL.
STAY.
REEE REARG GRRRRAAG
NO, WE'RE NOT DOING THAT!
WHAT DOES SHE WANT?
SLAM
SHE WANTS ME TO KILL HER, OF COURSE!
CAROL WAS RIGHT, THIS WHOLE NIGHTMARE...ULYSSES' VISION...IT'S COMING TRUE!
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
I DON'T KNOW!
WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME, NICO.
SLICE
ARRRGHHH!
ALISON?
AH, DAMN.

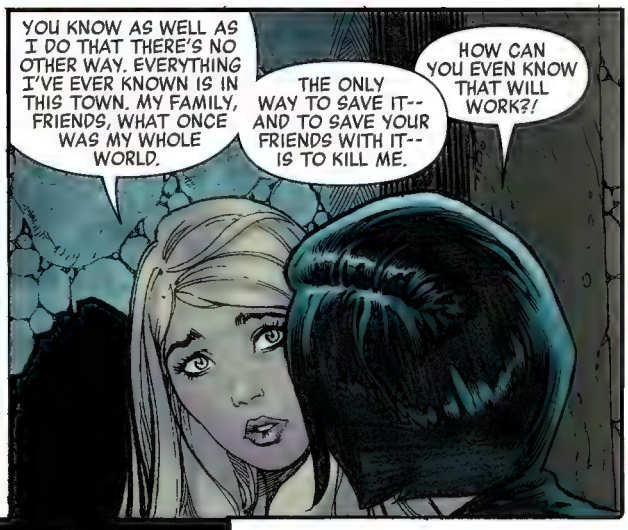

OH, GOD. NOT YOU TOO. I...HAVE TO STOP THIS...
SUSPEND.
YOU HAVE TO KILL ME, NICO. IT'S THE ONLY WAY.
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT!
I DO, NICO. I KNOW IT IN MY BONES...OR WHATEVER GIANT BUGS HAVE INSTEAD OF BONES.
EVERYONE I'VE EVER KNOWN, PEOPLE I USED TO LOVE, IT'S ALL GONE. WE CAN GET IT ALL BACK, BUT ONLY BY KILLING THE QUEEN. THE QUEEN IS ME.
NO, I WON'T DO IT. THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER...
...WAY.
I HAVE A BETTER IDEA. WE CAN GET THEM ALL BACK...AND YOU TOO, ALICE.

DE-METAMORPHOSIS.
GRARGREEEE

THIS FORM... IT FEELS SO FOREIGN.
YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT, GIVE IT SOME TIME.
NICO, IT'S NOT OVER.
WHAT... WHY?
LOOK AT YOUR FRIENDS.
IT COULD BE MY SPELL, KEEPING THEM FROM REVERTING.
IT'S NOT.
HOLD ON.
REANIMATE.
GRAAAAAHHHG
I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHY DIDN'T IT WORK?
YOU'RE HUMAN...WHY WOULDN'T THEY BE?!

SINGULARITY, HOLD THEM BACK.
STOP, BUGS!
NICO, PLEASE, I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO, I REALLY DO. BUT YOU MUST KILL ME NOW. BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE. BEFORE ONE OF THEM INFECTS YOU.

NO, THERE... THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY.


YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY. EVERYTHING I'VE EVER KNOWN IS IN THIS TOWN. MY FAMILY, FRIENDS, WHAT ONCE WAS MY WHOLE WORLD.
THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE IT-- AND TO SAVE YOUR FRIENDS WITH IT-- IS TO KILL ME.
HOW CAN YOU EVEN KNOW THAT WILL WORK?!

WHY WILL KILLING YOU WORK WHEN TURNING YOU HUMAN DIDN'T?
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT...I JUST KNOW IT, IT ALL CAME FROM ME, AND IT WILL END WITH ME.
I THINK MAYBE WHAT YOU CHANGED IS JUST THE SURFACE. I STILL FEEL THE SAME... INSIDE.

NICO?
IT'S... POSSIBLE.

PLEASE, NICO. YOU'LL BE DOING THE RIGHT THING, I PROMISE YOU. IT'S THE ONLY WAY. AND IT'S WHAT I WANT.
I... I JUST CAN'T.

YOU CAN. I KNOW YOU CAN, NICO.
PLEASE.

I'M SO SORRY, ALICE.
I KNOW.
GRIM REAPER.
ERRRK-GAAAG!
ALICE?
I'M SO SORRY.

GRRRAAAGHHHH--

--HHHHRRRGGGG--

--AAHHH!

AHHHH!

GRRRAAGG!

AHHHH!

OH, THANK GOD.

WELL, *THAT* WAS UNPLEASANT.

IS IT ALWAYS [illegible] LIKE THIS ON THIS BLOODY TEAM?

SHOCKINGLY, YES.

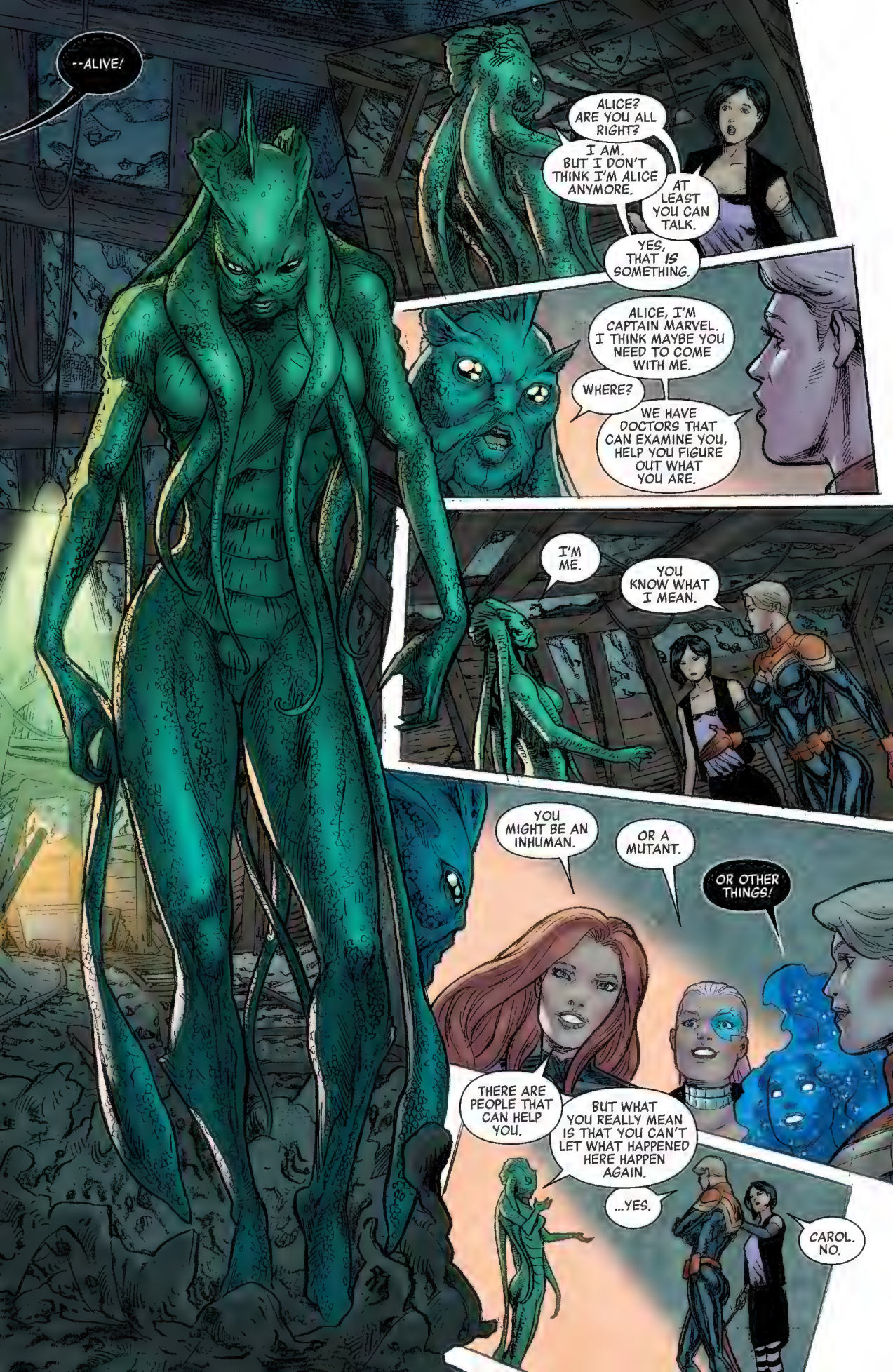
IT IS TRUE. WE MAY BE CURSED.

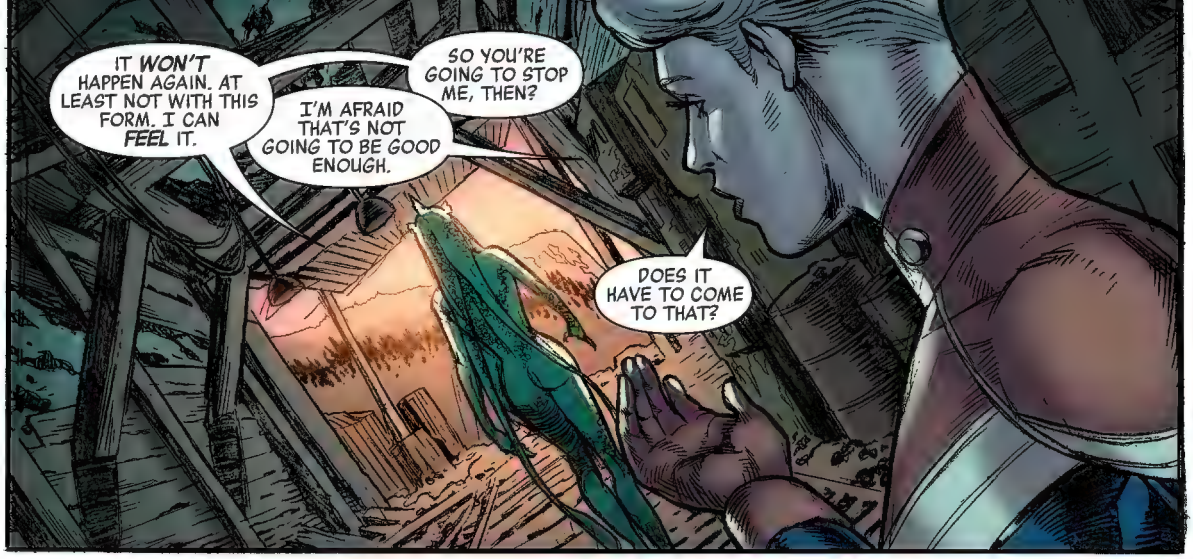
BUT SOMETIMES THERE ARE HUGS!

I STAND BY MY ASSESSMENT.

NICO.
I...I...
IT'S WHAT SHE WANTED, MINORU. AS ONE OF THOSE *THINGS*, I WAS CONNECTED TO HER, I COULD FEEL HER. IT'S WHAT SHE REALLY DID WANT, I PROMISE YOU.
I JUST WISH I COULD HAVE DONE BETTER FOR HER...
I--I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE, CAROL.
I KNOW.
WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

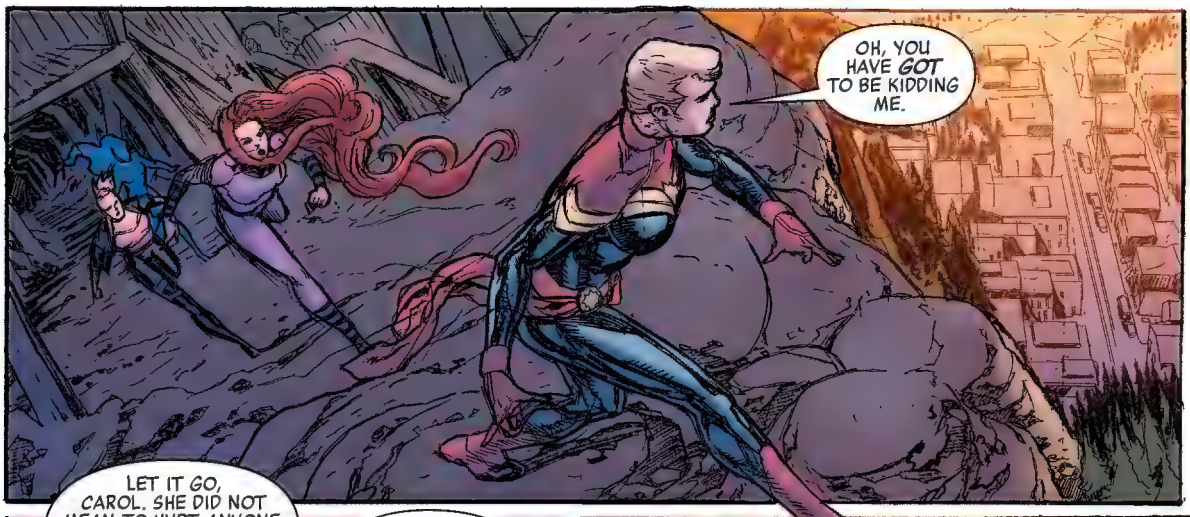
I DON'T KNOW. WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT.
I'M SO SORRY.
THANKS, ALI.
LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE EXCEPT YOU AND CAP COULD USE SOME CLOTHES. YOU GUYS WANT ME TO...?
THAT WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED, THANK YOU.
THREADS REGENERATE.
NICO, LOOK...
WHA--?
EVERYONE... BE READY.
NICO, SHE'S--

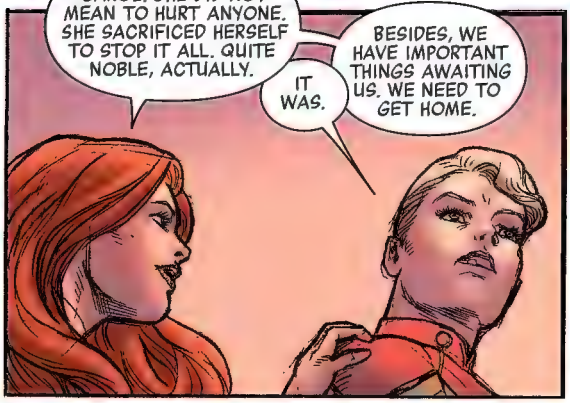

--ALIVE!
ALICE? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I AM. BUT I DON'T THINK I'M ALICE ANYMORE.
AT LEAST YOU CAN TALK.
YES, THAT IS SOMETHING.
ALICE, I'M CAPTAIN MARVEL. I THINK MAYBE YOU NEED TO COME WITH ME.
WHERE?
WE HAVE DOCTORS THAT CAN EXAMINE YOU, HELP YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU ARE.
I'M ME.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
YOU MIGHT BE AN INHUMAN.
OR A MUTANT.
OR OTHER THINGS!
THERE ARE PEOPLE THAT CAN HELP YOU.
BUT WHAT YOU REALLY MEAN IS THAT YOU CAN'T LET WHAT HAPPENED HERE HAPPEN AGAIN.
...YES.
CAROL. NO.


IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN. AT LEAST NOT WITH THIS FORM. I CAN FEEL IT.
I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT GOING TO BE GOOD ENOUGH.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO STOP ME, THEN?
DOES IT HAVE TO COME TO THAT?

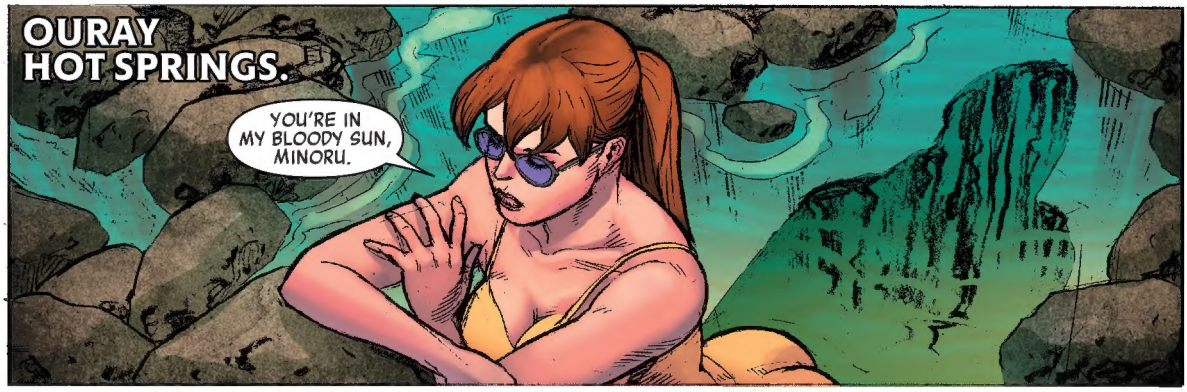
IT WON'T.

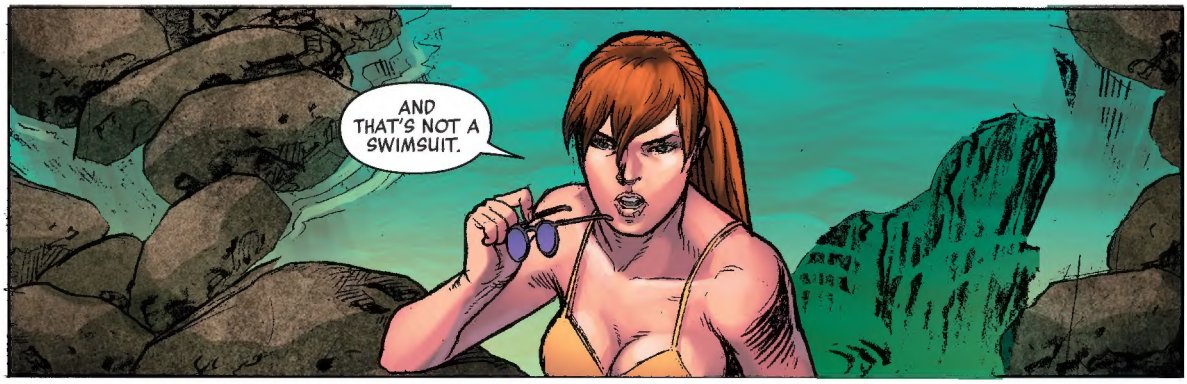
NO!


OH, YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.


LET IT GO, CAROL. SHE DID NOT MEAN TO HURT ANYONE. SHE SACRIFICED HERSELF TO STOP IT ALL. QUITE NOBLE, ACTUALLY.
IT WAS.
BESIDES, WE HAVE IMPORTANT THINGS AWAITING US. WE NEED TO GET HOME.

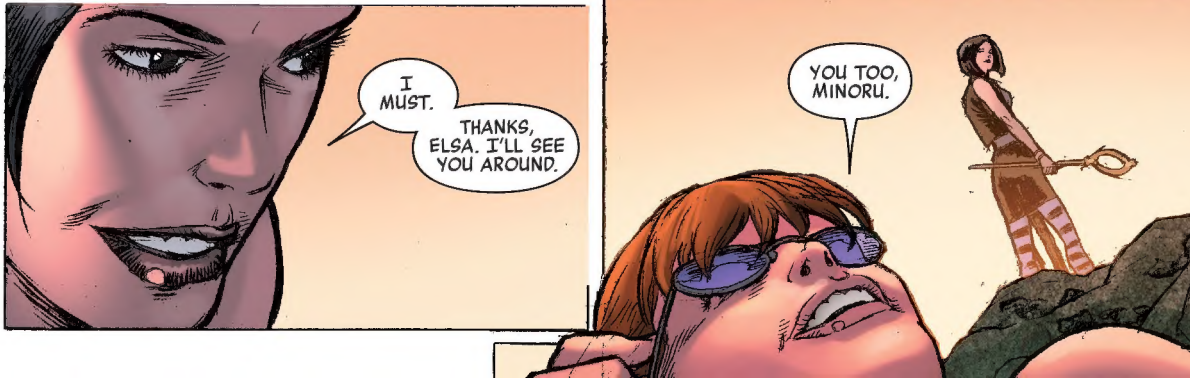
OH, FOR THE LOVE OF GOD. NOW WHERE'S NICO?


OURAY HOT SPRINGS.
YOU'RE IN MY BLOODY SUN, MINORU.


AND THAT'S NOT A SWIMSUIT.

YEAH, I'VE GOT TO GO. DAY MAY BE SAVED, BUT LOTS OF STUFF TO DEAL WITH STILL. THE FIGURATIVE PAPERWORK, I GUESS.
I WAS ALWAYS ****** AT PAPERWORK.
SHOCKING.
SHAME TO COME HERE AND NOT EVEN GET A TOE IN. I COULD SPLASH YOU, IF YOU LIKE.
I DO NOT LIKE.
MIGHT BE EVEN MORE FUN THAT WAY.

ONLY IF YOU WANT THE HOT SPRINGS TO BECOME COLD SPRINGS REAL DAMN FAST.
MMM. PASS.
SO, JUST GOING TO SIT THERE AND WATCH ME THEN, PERV?
YOU WISH. I JUST CAME TO--
I DON'T DO "THANKS," DARLING.
YEAH, WELL. I DO.
MMMM. IF YOU MUST.


I MUST.
THANKS, ELSA. I'LL SEE YOU AROUND.
YOU TOO, MINORU.

NICO...IT'S YOUR CALL. WHAT'S THE NEXT MOVE?
...
I DON'T KNOW, CAROL.
I WAS ONLY DOING WHAT I THOUGHT WAS BEST. YOU SEE THAT, RIGHT?
I KNOW. BUT YOU WERE WRONG.
WAS I, THOUGH?
YES. WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO THIS TOWN...TO ALICE, IF I'D NEVER COME HERE? IF I'D BEEN LOCKED UP SOMEWHERE?
WE'D HAVE FOUND ANOTHER WAY. A WAY THAT DIDN'T RELY ON THE LUCK OF ALICE'S POWER SAVING HER LIFE--AND YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO GO THROUGH THE TRAUMA OF KILLING SOMEONE.
NO, WE WON'T.
MAYBE. I GUESS WE'LL NEVER KNOW NOW.
BUT NOW I'M ASKING, NICO...WHAT'S NEXT? WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
...
I WANT TO SEE JEN.

"WE'VE NEVER AGREED ON ANYTHING MORE, NICO."
COME BACK TO US, JEN.
PAULO SIQUEIRA
THE END.

A-FORCE FAREWELL

I wrote the first draft of this in my own tears, but then they dried and I couldn't read what I wrote and I had to start all over! Worst. Idea. Ever.

So yeah, this is emotional for me. And I'm sure for a lot of you too. A-FORCE was a dream-come-true job for me. The sixteen-year-old me that dreamed of writing comics and was obsessive about them to the point of driving my parents half-insane never would have dared to imagine it. To be honest, even super-old me coming out of the AVENGERS movie in 2012 couldn't have imagined it either. There's a lesson there, probably. Something about dreams coming true, never giving up, blah blah blah.

Anyway, I'm desperately sorry it's all ending so soon, and I can't help but hope I'll get another shot at it someday, and that these ladies will continue on gloriously with or without me, as they deserve. But before they play me off the stage with all that swelling music, I wanted to thank Marvel for giving a girl like me the chance to write A-FORCE and for letting me play with all these ladies I fell so in love with (especially Medusa and Dazzler, who basically tricked me into liking them. Jerks).

I also wanted to thank all the incredible creators I got to work with on this book: G. Willow Wilson, Jorge Molina, Laura Martin, Matt Milla, Ben Caldwell, Ian Herring, Scott Hanna, Paulo Siqueira, Rachelle Rosenberg, Manny Mederos, and of course, our fearless editors Tom Brevoort, Daniel Ketchum, Alanna Smith, and Katie Kubert. And let us not forget the amazing Cory Petit, who lettered every single magnificent issue of A-FORCE...all 15...and yet we still failed to get any alpacas in his book. I have failed you, Cory. It's a cross I will carry for a lifetime.

Last but certainly not least, I'd like to thank all of you for being so supportive and devoted to A-FORCE. For falling so in love with these ladies, just like I did. For trusting me with them even when I mostly just wanted to make them sass each other, tells jokes, eat pie, and punch dragons.

Go forth and conquer my A-Corps...may we live forever...even if short hiatuses break our hearts from time to time! And may all your battles be moon battles!

XOXO
Kelly

A-FORCE WILL BE BACK, BUT YOU CAN HELP US SPEED UP ITS RETURN. EMAIL **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** TO TELL US WHAT A-FORCE MEANS TO YOU AND WHY YOU WANT TO SEE MORE OF IT. UNTIL NEXT TIME, A-CORPS. YOU'RE ALL HEROES TO US.

STAY BADASS.